

FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXII

FALL 1992

NUMBER



SOLOMON ISLANDERS FETE MARINES RETURNING AFTER 50 YEARS TO GUADALCANAL BATTLE SCENES . . .
MARINE COMMANDS AND BASES CELEBRATE HALF-CENTURY MARKS WITH PARADES AND SPECIAL EVENTS
. . . 92-YEAR-OLD FORMER MARINE MARKSMAN DEDICATES NEW RANGE . . . FLIGHT LINES: C-130 HERCULES

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FORTITUDINE

Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era.

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THE COVER



The bas relief on the newly dedicated Marine Raiders Memorial on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands is taken from the painting "Night Attack, Edson's Ridge," by the late Col Donald L. Dickson, USMCR. The painting also appears on the cover of this issue. The ceremonies surrounding the dedication and other events marking the 50th anniversary of the Guadalcanal campaign, are reported by BGen Simmons beginning on page 3.

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BGen Simmons

Guadalcanal 50 Years Later

FROM THE AIR, Savo Island was the first landmark we picked up; its cone shape was unmistakable. I could make out Florida Island but I could not see Tulagi or Gavutu-Tanambogo in the afternoon haze. Then close by I saw the serrated crest of Cape Esperance on the main island of Guadalcanal itself. Later, LtCol Kenneth A. Walsh, USMC (Ret), one of four Marine Corps aces present, would tell me that when flying back from the north, he would look for Cape Esperance. When he could see it, he would know that he would make it safely home to Henderson Field.

Kenny Walsh had begun the war as an enlisted pilot. He joined the Marine Corps in 1933 and won his wings in 1937. He was a second lieutenant in VMF-124 when it arrived on Guadalcanal in February 1943 with the new F4-U Vought Corsair. The gull-winged Corsairs were better than anything the Japanese could put into the air. The squadron went against 58 Zeroes on 1 April. Six Corsairs went down but the Japanese lost 18 Zeroes, three of them to Walsh. He got three more on 7 April. His victories continued. On 15 August, refreshed from rest and recreation in Australia, he had another triple victory day, his 11th, 12th, and 13th, while leading a division of five Corsairs. The 13th victory was the unlucky one; he took multiple hits but managed to land his shattered plane at Munda airfield in New Georgia, providentially opened the day before. On 30 August, over Kahili, he flew alone through a flight of about 50 Japanese aircraft and took down four of them. For this and his victories on 15 August he received his Medal of Honor. As a postscript he would get into the Pacific for a second tour in 1945, just in time to get one more kill over Okinawa. This brought his total to 21 aircraft, making him the Corps' fourth-ranking ace.

Before we landed at Henderson Field we were put into a holding pattern. As we orbited over the field I tried to pick out the Lunga and the Matanikau from among the streams that coursed down from the hills.

All looked like polished brass strips glinting in the noonday sun as they twisted their way through the green vegetation to the sea. From the air, the coconut groves, edging the water and planted in their evenly spaced squares, looked just as I remembered them. Farther inland was the kunai grass, more golden than green. Farther yet, on up the slopes of the mountains, was the darker, brooding, blue-green of the jungle.

Dignitaries from the U.S. and other Pacific nations attending the 7 August 1992 dedication ceremonies on Skyline Ridge are reflected by the highly polished surface of the new memorial to Americans killed in the Guadalcanal campaign, now 50 years past.

Photo by WO Mike Hedlund

Which of those hills was Mount Austen? I wasn't sure. Nor was I prepared for the aerial view of Honiara, a town of 30,000, laid out in a neat pattern of what would turn out largely to be small concrete-block houses.

THIS WAS 6 AUGUST 1992. Our aircraft, a VIP-configured C-9B, the Navy's version of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9, touched down for a smooth landing and

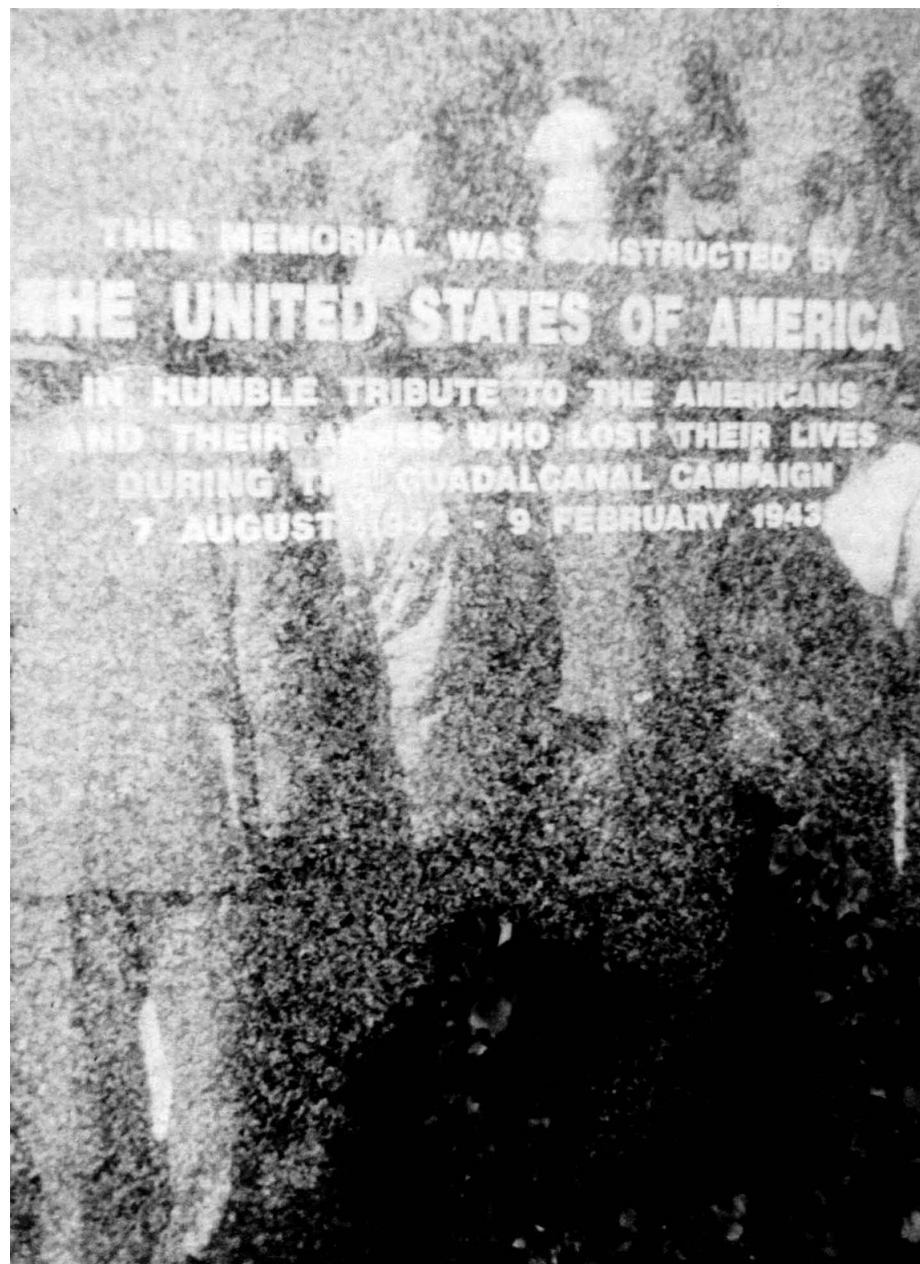




Photo by GySgt Ernie Carter

Solomon Islanders, many in their 70s, who are veterans of World War II were officially recognized by their government with the presentation to each of a specially designed medal and ribbon.

Above, the veterans, some of them shoeless as called for by tradition, pass in review at a well attended ceremony at Lawson Tama Athletic Field in Honiara, Guadalcanal, on 8 August.

then taxied to the modest terminal. A ramp was rolled out to the plane and Gen John R. Dailey, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and representing the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the ceremonies to come, stepped down to receive honors rendered by the 1st Marine Division Band.

It was a particularly poignant moment for Jack Dailey. His father, BGen Frank G. Dailey, USMC (Deceased), had flown from Guadalcanal with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing as a major. For heroism in flying a single-engined amphibian far at sea in search-and-rescue missions, he received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. Son Jack had been born in 1934 at Quantico. The elder Dailey, commissioned from the University of Nebraska in 1927 and a flier since 1930, had flown against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. After Guadalcanal, he would be on the staff of VAdm Marc A. Mitscher, Commander Task Force 58, in the USS Bunker Hill (CV-17) at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

There was a cluster of dignitaries waiting to greet Gen Dailey and his wife, Mimi. MajGen Charles E. Wilhelm, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, and BGen Gary E. Brown, Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force Pacific (and representing Commander-in-Chief, Pacific) were among those present. Smiling

young Solomon Island girls of school age placed leis of flowers around their necks.

The honor guard was drawn from the 200-person detachment, commanded by Maj Robert H. Barrow, Jr., mostly Marines, but some Navy, including a contingent of SeaBees. The detachment, called Task Force Guadalcanal, had been in the South Pacific for the past two months, with such ports of call as Fiji and Tonga. Out in the harbor was the large, gray shape of the detachment's home afloat, the USS *Racine* (LST-1191), and the two smaller shapes of the Australian frigate, HMAS *Tobruk*, and the New Zealand research ship, HMNZS *Tui*.

The ships lay just west of where the 15 ships of Transport Division X-Ray with two-thirds of the 1st Marine Division embarked had taken station in the pre-dawn of 7 August 1942. MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift, the division's commanding general, planned to land the 1st and 5th Marines east of Lunga Point.

Across Sealark Channel, the 1st Raider Battalion, followed by the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, would land at Tulagi. The 1st Parachute Battalion would go in at Gavutu-Tanambogo. Company A of the 2d Marines would scout out Florida Island; the rest of the 2d Marines would be in reserve.

Gen and Mrs. Dailey were to stay at the home of Mick Kranas, the Australian manager of the Bank of the Solomons, and his wife, Yvonne. Driving there along the coast road (now hard-surfaced and not hub-cap deep mud as I remembered it), I, at first, saw nothing recognizable. We crossed the Lunga River by way of a shining white concrete bridge, a recent gift of the Japanese to the Solomon Islanders. Paralleling it is an old Bailey bridge, a relic, I suppose, of the war years.

VIEWED UPSTREAM the Lunga looks the way it should, either as remembered or from wartime photographs. As we moved into the town the number of houses and buildings increased.

Fifty years before, this had been the village of Kukum. The 5th Marines, under Col LeRoy P. Hunt and less its 2d Battalion which was at Tulagi, had held the line from Kukum to the west bank of the Lunga.

Next to be crossed was the Matanikau of sinister memory. Looking seaward I could see the sand bar choking its entrance.

At first the Matanikau had marked as far west as the American patrols would go. Late in September, Vandegrift tried a complicated crossing of the river with three battalions. He tried again in early October,

this time with five battalions, and killed many Japanese near the mouth of the river, but did not gain any ground that could be held. Later that month the Japanese 2d (Sendai) Division would probe across the river and get thrown back. On the first of November, the 5th and 2d Marines would cross the Matanikau and get as far as Kokumbona before being recalled because of threats elsewhere against the perimeter. On 18 November, Vandegrift would move out once again to the west, crossing the river with the 8th Marines, the 164th Infantry, and two battalions of the just-arrived 182d Infantry. Fighting was still inconclusive when on 9 December 1942 Vandegrift turned over command of the island to MajGen Alexander M. Patch, USA, commanding general of the Americal Division.

WEST OF THE Matanikau now lies the main part of Honiara. Some of the downtown buildings are several stories high and quite impressive. We passed a park with a shrouded statue which I knew to be a figure of the legendary Sir Jacob Vouza.

Vouza was a retired sergeant major of Solomon Islands Protectorate Armed Constabulary, living quietly in his village, when the Japanese arrived in 1942. Vouza, born in 1900 in Tasimboko, had received a rudimentary education in the South Sea Evangelical Mission School and had joined the constabulary very young. He had completed 25 years' service by the time of his retirement in 1941.

Some days after the Marine landing he came down from the hills to offer his services as a scout to the Division intelligence section. Col Kiyono Ichiki had just landed near Taivu on 18 August with a reinforced battalion. Vouza, scouting near the village of Volonavua, was captured by a Japanese patrol. A small American flag, given to him by the Marines, was found on his person. Vouza recognized one of his captors as "Ishimoto," a carpenter and shipwright who had worked around the island. Ishimoto, now in Japanese uniform, led the interrogation. Vouza, tied to a stake in the blistering sun, beaten with rifle butts, and slashed with bayonets, was left to die.

He chewed his way through the straw ropes that bound him and managed to reach the American lines where he was met by the coastwatcher, Martin Clemens,

who says, "He was an awful mess . . ." Vouza described what he had seen of the Japanese, their numbers and their weapons.

That night, 20 August, Ichiki tried to breach the left flank of the Marine perimeter on the near bank of "Alligator Creek," which was the Marine name for the confusing channels of the Tenaru. The Marine lines there were held by the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines (LtCol Edwin A. Pollock). The Marines held and at daybreak, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines (LtCol Lenard B. Cresswell), moved upstream and came down on the Japanese flank. Caught between the two battalions and the sea, and with most of his 900 men dead or dying, Col Ichiki burned his colors and shot himself through the head.

On 11 October, a Marine raid against an outpost at Gurabusu village, 30 miles east of the perimeter, killed 32 Japanese. Among the dead, the Marines took satisfaction in noting, was Ishimoto, Vouza's torturer.

The statue of Vouza was to be rededicated on the following day. Next to the statue was a temporary 250-person tent camp, built by the Marines and Seabees of Task Force Guadalcanal and finer in all respects than any tent camp I can remember from World War II.

In addition to the Marines and Navy ashore, the tent camp was to provide housing for the expected overflow of visitors, particularly the returning veterans, of all services, of Guadalcanal, of whom something like a thousand were expected. The largest number were on board the big, gleaming white, cruise ship *Ocean Pearl*, which was tied up to one of Honiara's principal piers. Other visitors were ashore in Honiara's several small hotels—the Mendana, the Honiara, and the Hibiscus. The Mendana is the largest. I was told that its Japanese owner had agreed to forego flying the Rising Sun flag during the ceremonial period.

THE HOUSE OF Mick and Yvonne Kranas is a lovely tropical villa with slatted doors, louvered windows, ceiling fans, and a swimming pool, on a ridge called Lenggeteke, a name not familiar to me, overlooking Honiara. With its luxuriant hibiscus and bougainvillea, the Kranas house reminded me of similar homes I had known in the Caribbean.

There was barely time to drop our baggage and freshen up (of greatest importance to Mimi Dailey who always managed an impeccable appearance) before leaving for a garden-party reception at State House, the Governor General's residence, on East Kola'a Ridge. This was another superbly located tropical villa.

Our hosts were the Governor General, His Excellency, Sir George Geria Dennis Lepping, G.C.M.G., M.B.E., K.St.J., and Lady Lepping, both native Solomon Islanders. The Solomon Islands have been an independent nation since 1978, a parliamentary democracy within the British Commonwealth. Primarily a Melanesian people, the population of the islands is now more than 300,000, three times what it was during the war years.

The Governor General's engraved invitation specified "Dress: Tropical Formal (Decorations may be worn)." Our welcoming packet, received on arrival at the airport, included a useful note, indicating that "Island Formal," when required, meant shirt (short- or long-sleeved) with collar, long trousers, and shoes for men.

THE GUESTS AT THE Governor General's garden party were for the most part more formally dressed than "Island Formal." Coat and tie was the rule rather than the exception. Most formal, in dark suits, were the dignitaries from Tonga and Fiji. Many of the guests of World War II vintage wore large medals in the British tradition. The Australians and New Zealanders tended toward safari suits. There were a great number of white uniforms, including the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officers present.

I knew a fair number of the persons present. Immediately recognizable was Martin Clemens, the coastwatcher, resplendent in a white shirt with polished large medals, both British and American. We renewed our acquaintance.

On the morning before the landing, Capt Martin Clemens "was the most miserable of men." The Japanese invasion and the work on the airfield had forced him and his handful of native scouts to take refuge in the hills. "We ate nothing for three days. I was at a miserable hamlet called Vuchikoro, could see nothing, low mist in the morning, batteries were weak, charging engine unreliable. Difficult to sleep. What to do."

On the morning of 7 August he heard

very heavy detonations. "We grabbed the radio and slithered up the hill to see this amazing panorama laid out as far as the eye could see. Savo to Ruasura, from Lunga to Tulagi, ships everywhere, and small boats unloading."

Clemens received a radio signal he considered "pompous," warning him to beware of retreating enemy, and that he would be advised when to come down. "As if I cared," said Clemens. "It was shoes I needed."

He was not told "to come down" until the 13th when a message arrived saying, "US Marines have landed successfully in force and will be glad to see you."

"And so," said now-Maj Martin Clemens. "I walked down, shoe-less until the last half-mile and with six of my top scouts, my dog, and a large Union Jack I marched along the beach and I joined the 1st Marine Division as their British Liaison Officer and Officer-in-Charge, Scouts."

"Quite early on, when General Vandegrift and I were discussing Rugby Union, which he had played in Shanghai, it

became obvious that he was particularly concerned with the wretched performance of patrols, the lack of liaison between units, and the total inability of fish pole aeriels to transmit in the jungle. My lads had been stalking the enemy on bare feet for some months so we were able to teach the Marines a thing or two, while I soon showed them how to rig an alternative aerial which worked."

ANOTHER FAMILIAR FACE at the Governor General's reception was that of Gen Raymond G. Davis, onetime Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, holder of the Medal of Honor (but for Korea, not Guadalcanal), and there as the official representative of the President of the United States.

At Guadalcanal, Capt Ray Davis had commanded a battery of .50 caliber anti-aircraft machine guns. Later, as a major, he would command the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, at Cape Gloucester and Peleliu.

The Governor General's reception was followed almost without pause by a recep-

tion given by the United States on board the USS *Racine*. We congregated on the pier in the lee of the great white hull of the *Ocean Pearl*, waiting our turn to go by launch or small boat out to the *Racine*. The hot, humid afternoon had given way to a cool and pleasant evening.

While waiting, I met the four Marine aviator aces, all instantly recognizable from the Medals of Honor hanging pendant from the white-starred blue watered-silk ribbons around their necks. In addition to LtCol Walsh, those present were BGen Robert E. Galer, Col Jefferson J. DeBlanc, and Col James E. Swett.

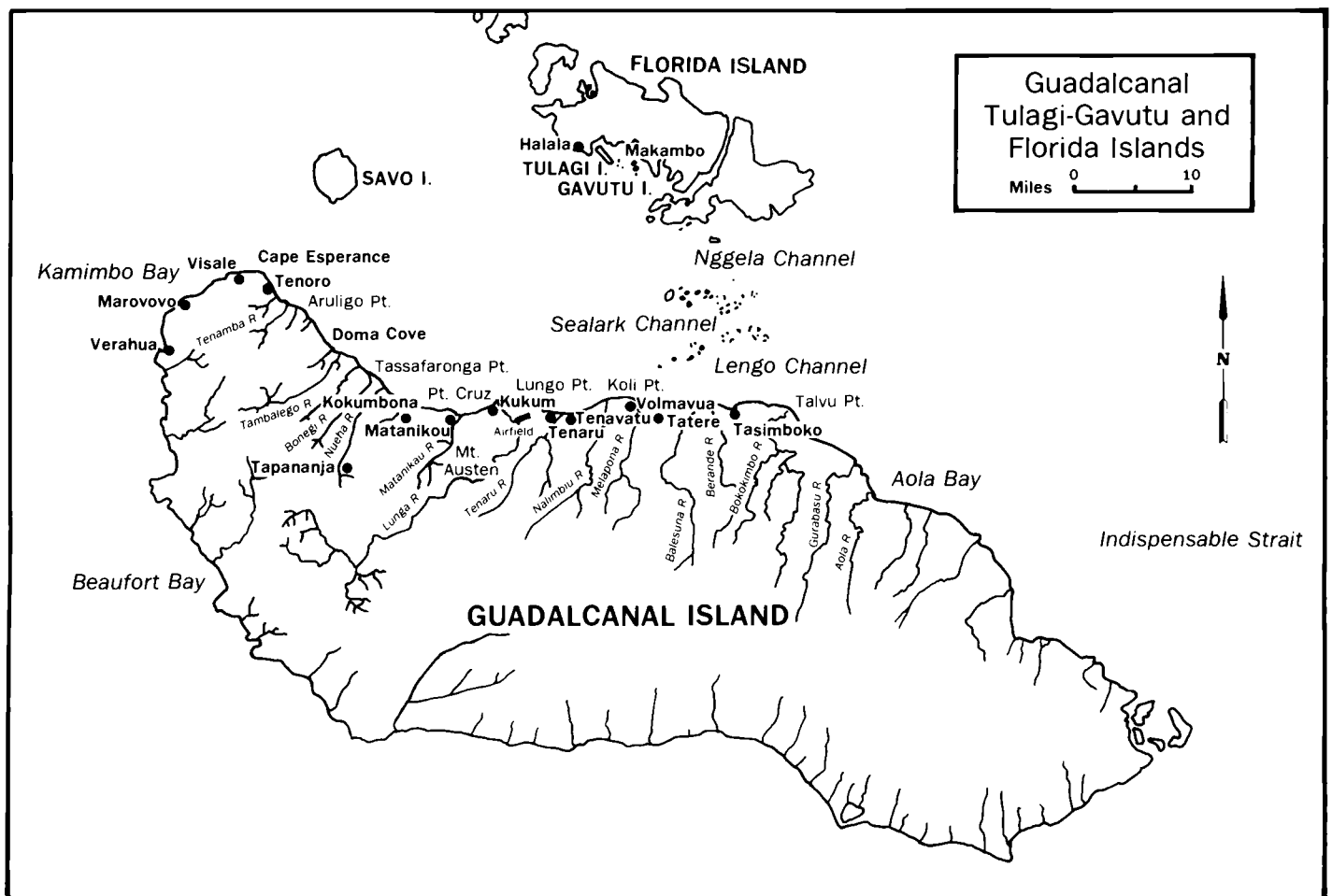
Capt Bob Galer had commanded VMF-224, one of the first fighter squadrons to come into Henderson Field, arriving on 30 August from the carrier USS *Hornet* (CV 8). VMF-224 had its first enemy contact at noon on 2 September when it went up to meet a 40-plane raid. The Japanese lost seven planes, two of them to Galer. On 11 September he was shot down after getting a bomber and a Zero. He landed in the water and swam ashore.

The polished granite stele of the American memorial is prominent against the sky, flanked by the Solomons and U.S. flags, at the dedication ceremonies which featured Gen Raymond G.

Davis, USMC (Ret), representing the U.S. president, and Gen John R. Dailey, USMC, representing the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Guadalcanal's famous ridged landscape makes the backdrop.

Photo by WO Mike Hedlund





His final total was 13 enemy aircraft.

Flying a F4-F Grumman Wildcat, 2dLt Jeff DeBlanc of VMF-112 on 31 January 1943 was part of the escort of a bombing mission being run against Japanese shipping in Vella Gulf. DeBlanc took his flight into the Japanese interceptors who, in superior numbers, had come up to meet him. He shot down three float planes and two Zeroes before jumping from his badly damaged Wildcat at very low altitude over enemy-held Kolombangara. SSgt James A. Felton was also shot down and joined DeBlanc. They were found by a coastwatcher and 13 days later they returned to Guadalcanal, lifted off Kolombangara by a search-and-rescue amphibian "Duck." By the war's end DeBlanc was credited with nine aircraft shot down.

WHILE THEY WERE ON Guadalcanal for the anniversary, Galer, DeBlanc, Swett, and Walsh would fly "the Slot" once more, going north in a comfortable passenger aircraft, on what would have been a sentimental journey except that fighter pilots are never sentimental.

The ride out to the *Racine* in the captain's gig was across waters glittering with the reflected light from the ships and shore. All the ships in the harbor were illuminated and dressed out with lights. The atmosphere was that of a water carnival.

In 1942 the ships had been blacked out and the nights dark except for the star shells, the muzzle flashes, the bursting shells, and the burning ships.

THESE WERE THE WATERS that are now set down on the charts as "Iron Bottom Sound." A group of underwater explorers from the National Geographic Society had been probing those depths and to date had found the hulks of 14 Japanese and American ships. Out there, dimly in the dark, was Savo Island and beyond that, unseen, was Tulagi. I thought of how it must have been 50 years earlier.

On 8 August the half-finished Japanese airstrip that would become Henderson Field was taken without difficulty. The bombers came over again at noon, going after the transports. A council of war was

held that night on board the *McCawley* (AP-10), the Amphibious Force flagship. RAdm Frank Jack Fletcher, who had lost 21 of his 99 fighters, was pulling his three carriers out to the south. RAdm V. A. C. Crutchley, Australian Navy, commanding the Screening Force, was concerned about his cruisers in these close waters. RAdm Richmond Kelly Turner, commanding the Attack Force, said that his transports, still half-loaded, could not stay unprotected in the objective area. MajGen Vandegrift said that he must check on the situation at Tulagi before he could possibly concur in the departure of the transports.

It was almost midnight, and Vandegrift was on his way to Tulagi in a minesweeper, when a Japanese cruiser-destroyer force—four heavy cruisers, *Chokai*, *Aoba*, *Kako* and *Kinugasa*, light cruisers *Tenryu* and *Yubari*, and the destroyer *Yunagi*—came into Sealark Channel at flank speed, all guns blazing. It was the Battle of Savo Island and before morning Crutchley's force was nearly all gone in what forevermore would be called Iron Bottom Sound. The U.S. cruisers *Quincy* (CA 39), *Astoria* (CA 34), and *Vincennes* (CA 44), and

Australian cruiser HMAS Canberra were on the bottom; the USS Chicago (CA 29) badly damaged. The Japanese had failed to attack the transports. Turner decided to take them out of harm's way and Vandegrift was left on the beach with 4 units of fire and 17 days rations. Six of his battalions were across the straits in the Tulagi area; only five were on Guadalcanal itself; four of the latter on line, one in reserve.

Racine is a magnificent ship, obviously scrubbed down and dressed out for this

Famed World War II Guadalcanal coastwatcher Maj Martin Clemens speaks at the dedication of the memorial to SgtMaj Sir Jacob C. Vouza in Honiara. Sir Jacob, whose endurance under torture by the enemy was extraordinary, was knighted in 1979.

Photo by WO Mike Hedlund



state occasion. The crew, young, bright-faced, and smiling, seemed genuinely happy to welcome the horde of visitors, most of them old enough to be their grandparents, coming across the quarter-deck. The 1st Marine Division Band, theatrically positioned on the deck below, gave a concert. I talked with a Solomon Islander, a small, elderly man in a brown safari suit, who had served as a coastwatcher with Donald G. Kennedy, Clemens' counterpart on New Georgia, and who had known Jacob Vouza well.

How much different was the Racine from the LST, number now forgotten, in which I traveled from New Caledonia to Tulagi in January 1944. I remembered the harbor as it was then, filled with an assortment of landing ships, patrol craft, and torpedo boats. I think I remember that the LSTs still had barrage balloons tethered to their fantails, the theory being that diving bombers would cut themselves up on the cables. The prevailing wisdom, however, was that the barrage balloons served as target designators for the approaching Japanese bombers, although by that time in the war, few, if any, Japanese aircraft were penetrating that far south.

The USS Racine is a big and powerful ship, displacing 8,342 tons, rated to carry 430 troops, commissioned in 1971, and a veteran of the closing days of the Vietnam conflict. By contrast, the diesel-powered World War II LSTs were an assembly line product; more than 1,000 were produced. They made their combat debut in the Solomons in 1943. Remarkably versatile, if primitive, they could lift about 200 troops and could carry a 2,100-ton load of supplies, equipment, tanks, or vehicles.

FRIDAY, 7 AUGUST, the 50th anniversary of the landing itself and a national holiday in the Solomons, was a day filled with ceremonies. I did not get to all of them. There was a dawn service at the Cenotaph on Mendana Avenue in Honiara that I missed.

I did go to the dedication of the Guadalcanal Campaign Memorial, as did, apparently, half the island's population. Skyline Drive, the dirt road leading up to the ridge, was filled with people moving toward the monument, in a holiday spirit, laughing, smiling, and shouting "Good morning," as our cars inched their way forward. The women, for the most part, wore bright printed cotton dresses, the men, T-shirts and shorts or slacks. Most feet were bare.

During the war the natives for the most part were sequestered in their villages, out-of-bounds to the Americans and other Allied military. We occasionally saw male Solomon Islanders, mostly in working parties, wearing khaki lava lavas and perhaps a shark's-tooth necklace, and with a great mass of bushy black hair into which a clay pipe or perhaps a flower was stuck. We almost never saw women or children.

Mick Kranas, our Australian host, told



Rendering salutes at the Raiders Memorial dedication ceremonies are, from left, MajGen Charles Wilhelm, 1st Marine Division commanding general, and Medal of Honor holders Col Jefferson J. DeBlanc, USMC (Ret); BGen Robert E. Galer, USMC (Ret); LtCol Kenneth A. Walsh, USMC (Ret); Col James E. Swett, USMC (Ret); and Gen Raymond G. Davis, USMC (Ret).

me that Honiara and the relative prosperity of Guadalcanal itself had attracted natives from all of the Solomon Islands. He said that there were differences among them in skin color and physical detail, and that an old island hand could tell at a glance whether an islander was from Malaita, or Bougainville, or the Floridas, or wherever.

BOTH THE SOLOMON ISLAND Police Band and the 1st Marine Division Band played at the dedication. The program began with an invocation by U.S. Navy Chaplain Cdr Robert A. Black. The master of ceremonies, Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke, was introduced. Much of the credit for achieving the memorial must go to Dr. Muehrcke. As a young man he had landed as a rifleman with the 164th U.S. Infantry, the first of the Army regiments to arrive.

The 164th Infantry was a National Guard regiment, originally from North Dakota, activated in 1940, and made up for the most part, so it seemed, of big, blond Americans of Scandinavian or Teutonic origin. With this reinforcement, Vandegrift was able to divide his perimeter into five sectors, roughly along regimental lines. The Marines and the 164th got

along well. The Marines were still armed with the Springfield 1903 bolt-action rifle. The 164th had the semi-automatic M-1 Garand. The Marines admired and sometimes acquired the M-1. They also bestowed on the soldiers the accolade, "164th Marines."

Dr. Muehrcke made his welcoming remarks and then went through the introductions of those who were to speak: the Hon Charles Dausabea, Minister of Home Affairs; the U.S. President's representative, Gen Davis; Coastwatcher Maj Clemens; the JCS representative, Gen Dailey.

The memorial was then unveiled by Gen Davis and the U. S. Ambassador, Robert Farrand. (Mr. Farrand is a part-time ambassador to the Solomons. He is also accredited to Papua New Guinea, which absorbs the major part of his time and attention.) The monument is an open rectangle of polished granite blocks or walls with a stele or shaft rising in the middle. Bronze plates on the walls describe the battles that were fought and list the units that took part.

The dedication prayer was by the Rev. D. Barakana of the United Church of the Solomons. The hymn "Amazing Grace" was sung by the choir of the Honiara

Church. A procession of wreaths was then laid. The hymn "Eternal Father Strong to Save" followed. There was then a benediction by the Rev Canon D. H. V. Bindon of the Church of Melanesia, followed by taps by the 1st Marine Division Band and a firing salute by a squad from Task Force Guadalcanal.

AFTER THE DEDICATION, Gen Dailey's party moved to Edson's Ridge. The ridge was almost bare of grass, both from mowing and a recent burn-over. To the front were the ravines through which the Japanese had mounted their attack. To the rear, perhaps a mile away, Henderson Field was in full view. Vandegrift's headquarters had lain between the ridge and the field.

The 1st Raider Battalion, under LtCol Merritt A. Edson, had come over from Tulagi, and with the remnant of the 1st Parachute Battalion, had moved up on the ridge on 12 September. That night, Maj-Gen Kiyotake Kawaguchi's brigade boiled out of the ravines in three attacks against Edson's line. The following night there were two more assaults against the center and a last effort against the parachutists on the left flank. Edson's battalion, down to 400 effectives, bent but did not break. The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, came up

to reinforce. In the morning, 800 dead Japanese were counted on the ridge.

There is a small, white, triangular marker, erected in 1967, on the ridge. Close to it was a mess tent erected by Maj Barrow's Marines. A Mess Night on the ridge was planned for that night.

MY EXCUSE, if not my reason, for being in the Assistant Commandant's party was that I was the historical consultant for a videotape he was to make. From half a world away it had been decided that Edson's Ridge would be a good place for a part of the narration. The video crew, from Quantico and tightly bound to the script, was plagued by the whistling wind coming across the ridge and the over-bright noonday tropical sun coming straight down. Gen Dailey patiently read and re-read the words of the script that came up on the teleprompter.

There were more ceremonies that afternoon, including the re-dedication of the Solomon Islands Campaign Memorial and of the Vouza statue near the Police Headquarters (and adjacent to Task Force Guadalcanal's tent camp) in Honiara.

Taken to the Division's makeshift hospital by Clemens, Vouza was not expected to survive the wounds received during his captivity, but in 12 days he was back to duty. The 2d Raider Battalion, under LtCol Evans F. Carlson, of Makin Island fame, landed at Aola Bay, 40 miles east of Lunga, on 4 November. Vandegrift sent him on a long march, going completely around the perimeter. Vouza was assigned to Carlson as a guide. Carlson stayed in the jungle until 4 December, having marched 150 miles, fought a dozen actions, and killed perhaps 500 Japanese.

Vouza, when asked some time later about his survival of his capture and his extraordinary services as a scout, said:

I remember my training in the police, and how they tell me always to be faithful to my king. I think about how naughty I was when I first joined the police and how much trouble I cause government. So I tell myself this time I do something good for my king to pay him back for all that trouble. . . ."

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1979 and died in 1984.

BECAUSE MY TIME on the island was short, I skipped the afternoon ceremonies to make an impromptu battlefield tour with my new friend, Mick Kranas. I wanted to find the bivouac area I had occupied early in 1944. I should make it clear that I am a "veteran" of Guadalcanal only in the sense that I was there a brief time a year after the fighting was over. As a newly promoted captain, I was the Survey and Reconnaissance officer of the Engineer Company of the 5th Field Depot, then in the Russell Islands to the north of Guadalcanal, getting ready to stage out for re-occupation of Guam. A field depot was the forerunner of what is today a force service support group.

We were to provide shore party troops for the operation and I was sent down to do liaison successively with the 4th Marines, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, and the III Amphibious Corps. My first camp was a cluster of tents in a coconut grove close to the water's edge and in the lee of a beached Japanese transport. It had been an unlovely camp, marked by mud, rats, land crabs, and malaria. The place was called Doma Cove.

MICK KRANAS KNEW where the beached ships were, near the village of Bonege, which I did not remember by name. The location looked right. The rusted remnants of a ship were there, the *Hirokawa Maru*. The rust was the peculiar bright red-orange of the tropics and the hulk was shapeless. Bits and pieces of it had gone off to salvage. Hulks in shallow waters attract fish and this was a good place for snorkeling and diving. A fair number of swimmers were in the water or on the beach having a good time. There was the adjacent coconut grove, between the shore line and the coast road. They were the tall coconut palms I remembered, not the short-trunked coconuts of Malayan origin that are now being planted. But something about the site was not quite right.

Coastwatchers were the best early warning system for both ships and bombers coming down "the Slot." On 12 November 1942 both they and scout planes picked up a large Japanese naval task force converging on Guadalcanal. Radio intercepts identified major combatant elements of two carriers, two battleships, and four cruisers. Shortly after midnight, RAdm Daniel J. Callaghan with five cruis-

ers and eight destroyers, intercepted the bombardment group, headed by the battleships Hiei and Kiroshima and escorted by a light cruiser and 14 destroyers, near Savo Island. In a battle fought at short range, the flagship San Francisco was badly damaged and Adm Callaghan killed. RAdm Norman Scott in the light anti-aircraft cruiser Atlanta (CL 104) was also killed and his ship sunk. Three Japanese destroyers were sent to the bottom and four others damaged. The Hiei, hit many times but still operational, fell back, leading away the bombardment force. On the American side, in addition to the loss of the Atlanta, the Juneau (CL 52) and four destroyers were sunk. When daylight came, fighters and bombers from Guadalcanal found the crippled Hiei and continued her wounding until the Japanese were forced to scuttle the helpless hulk.

Behind all this a Japanese troop convoy lifting the bulk of the 38th Division, embarked in 11 transports, was bearing down on Guadalcanal. The bombers from Guadalcanal reinforced with Army Air Force B-17s from the New Hebrides went after the transports and got them one by one. Seven were sunk.

The battleships Washington (BB 56) and South Dakota (BB 55) had been sent up to out-gun the Japanese battleships and cruisers. In another night action on the 14th, the two American battleships were badly damaged and three destroyers were sunk, but the Kiroshima went down along with a Japanese destroyer and the Japanese pulled back.

The four remaining transports, with four destroyers in escort, kept boring through. The transports were sacrificed, running up on the beach, to discharge their cargo of 10,000 reinforcing troops.

WE WENT A LITTLE further west on the road and found a small blue-painted sign saying "Doma Plantation." There was a plantation house, a low rambling bungalow. A bit of a distance out in the water was a second rusting hulk. My tourist map told me it was the *Kinugawa Maru*. How it drifted away from the beach, I don't know, but this must have been the site of my camp. A knock on the plantation house door produced no results. The occupants were probably in Honiara for the celebration. The one sign of life was a pig in a pen.

The pig reminded me that in these

same coconut groves we would hunt the pigs that had gone wild. We would park in a jeep and when we heard a pig foraging for coconuts among the fallen fronds, we would turn on the jeep headlights and shoot the dazzled pig with an M-1 carbine.

An alternative, although I never hunted them myself, were the cattle, left to their own devices by the departed plantation managers. In those times there was always a Marine who knew how to dress out the carcass of a pig or what was hopefully a steer. The pig we would barbecue over an open fire, basting with a sauce made of canned tomatoes, dried onions, vinegar, and sugar. The result was edible and at least a change from the fatty mutton that came up from Australia and New Zealand. A steer would be trussed up to an A-frame or hoisted by the winch of a tow truck, and then cut into steaks, optimistically all of it. Each member of a company would get a pound-or-so gobbet of raw red meat and could do with it what he wished.

After visiting Doma Cove we continued northwest along the coast road toward Cape Esperance, stopping en route at the Vilu War Museum, an outdoor display in a coconut grove of the detritus of war. Im-

pressive was the number of recovered crashed aircraft, among them the remains of an F4F Wildcat, SBD Dauntless, P-38 Lightning, and F4U Corsair; and of a Japanese Zero fighter and Betty two-engined bomber. The aluminum skins of the Japanese aircraft were much thinner than those of the American planes, and still much brighter, just as they had been 50 years ago.

American aluminum, in whatever the alloy, was a dullish gray; Japanese aluminum was bright and silvery which made it much sought after by the Marines and others in the manufacture of souvenir jewelry, especially snap-on watch bands. Some of the jewelry, laboriously cut, filed, and polished with whatever tools were at hand, mounted sea shells, with the brown-and-green "cat's eye" being in particular demand. Expended brass shell casings were also a favorite source of material for the handicrafters, yielding such things as ash trays and humidors.

WE STOPPED SHORT of Cape Esperance. The sun was behind it and the serrated edges of the mountain spine that forms the cape had an eerie, unsettling look.

Joining 1st Marine Division commander MajGen Charles Wilhelm, far right, at the 8 August dedication of the Raiders Memorial adjacent to Henderson Field are veterans of the

Guadalcanal campaign and coastwatcher Maj Martin Clemens, to the left of Gen Wilhelm. The memorial features a bas relief based on Col Donald Dickson's "Night Attack, Edson's Ridge."



orange-rusted machinery that had been bull-dozed or dropped into a pile. Otherwise, the beach, with its edging of coconut palms and narrow strand of coral sand, had returned almost to its virgin state. Two or three other visitors were poking about. We looked at each other self-consciously.

There was no opposition to the main landing on Guadalcanal that began at 0910, 7 August 1942, across Red Beach, five miles east of Lunga Point. Col LeRoy P. Hunt's 5th Marines came ashore first, followed an hour later by Col Clifton B. Cates' 1st Marines. There were two air raids that afternoon and the unloading of supplies across the beach was chaotic. Night found the Marines holding a line along the Ténaru, or what they thought was the Ténaru. Their maps were wrong, it was the Ilu.

Mick Kranas and I had the same problem, sorting out the Ténaru and the Ilu from among the channels that crawled through the marshy ground. "Alligator Creek," though, was clearly marked with a sign at the side of the bridge, and Ilu or Ténaru, it was behind "Alligator Creek" that the 1st Marines had established their line.

By now the sun was setting and darkness came with the suddenness of a dropped curtain as it does on a tropical island. We made our way back through Honiara, the single main street still filled

with enthusiastic islanders celebrating their Liberation Day.

The next morning, 8 August 1992, started with a dedication of the Edson's Ridge or Raiders Memorial and the adjacent Henderson Tower, the latter being the refurbished wartime operations tower.

The Raiders Memorial features a bas relief based on a well-known painting by Col Donald Dickson (who was there as a captain and adjutant of the 5th Marines) of the hand-to-hand fighting on the ridge.

THE SKELETON structure of the control tower, looking very much like a forest ranger's lookout, acted as a target or registration point for Japanese artillery and bombers. I was told, perhaps hyperbolically, that it was knocked down, blown up, or otherwise battle damaged a dozen times during the war years. It continued to serve as the control tower for Henderson Field well into the 1950s. Now the old steel has been re-welded in many places, new wooden stair treads and platform have been installed, and all the metal painted a bright, glistening aluminum. There was no trace of "the Pagoda," the unpainted wooden structure built by the Japanese that the Americans used as an operations shack.

The master of ceremonies for the dedication was Dr. Ervin Kaplan, who had

been a radioman with Carlson's Raiders. There were color guards from the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions, the 25th Infantry Division, and the 1st and 2d Aircraft Wings. The 1st Marine Division Band played and there were brief dedicatory remarks by Gen Davis, Maj Clemens, Gen Dailey, and MajGen Wilhelm. Gen Dailey said that "The aerial battle for Guadalcanal was as critical, in its way, as the Battle for Britain." MajGen Wilhelm, as commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, emphasized that the deeds of the 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal were not lost on the 1st Marine Division of today.

After the ceremony, Gen Dailey and the video party from Quantico stayed behind to use the site for a continuation of the narration for the Guadalcanal commemorative video. The tower and memorial face the coast road and are backed by the present runway for Henderson Field. Audio conditions for the videotaping were considerably less than ideal plus the disruptive fact that the videotaping attracted successive batches of curious on-lookers, both native and visitors.

Gen Dailey again displayed great patience and all was completed in time to walk the short half-mile to the present airport terminal, pass through the cluster of well-wishers, and embark for the noontime departure of the C-9 for Hawaii and home.

□1775□

Readers Always Write

Age Failed to Dim This 'Warrior, Gentleman, and Wit'

I have just finished reading the Spring issue of *Fortitudine* and your biography of Col "Jim" Crowe. While C.O. of Headquarters Company, Landing Force Training Command, Atlantic, in 1986, I received a letter from a Portsmouth police lieutenant suggesting that we honor Col Crowe somehow. Since I was responsible for the Corps' birthday cake cutting ceremony for the command that year, I discussed the matter with the Chief of Staff who told me to "check him out."

Upon determining Col Crowe's age I was reluctant to contact him as a guest of honor candidate because I was concerned that our primarily entry-level students would not be able to relate to him. The decision was left to me so I elected just to

send the good colonel a note and see if he'd be interested. What ensued was a series of telephone conversations between Col Crowe and myself in which I was treated to one of the most heartwarming and interesting oral histories I can imagine. It soon became clear that Col Crowe's life, career, and personal style would be just the thing our young Marines needed.

In the end Col Crowe consented to act as guest of honor at our gymnasium cake cutting. We showed the video of "Such As Regiments Hand Down Forever" that year followed by the usual formalities and then Col Crowe. The connection between the video and the speaker created in the attendees a powerful sense of history, family, and esprit, such that I doubt any will ever

forget it. Certainly none will require further training to realize he or she is merely a caretaker for all the Marines who have gone before!

I am pleased that you chose to devote so much space to this charismatic and colorful figure. He was a warrior, gentleman, and wit. I count myself as privileged to have known him even casually. Congratulations on an excellent article.

Maj J. P. Jacobs, USMC
Virginia Beach, Virginia

EDITOR'S NOTE: Maj Jacobs' letter represents scores of similar ones continuing to be received in response to the discussion of "Jim" Crowe and his times.

Painter of Official Portraits Follows in Father's Footsteps

by John T. Dyer, Jr.
Curator of Art

FINE ARTIST and portrait painter Peter Egeli has finished two oil portraits of the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Alfred M. Gray.

One painting, commissioned by the Marine Corps, shows Gen Gray in a characteristic pose: hands on hips, in camouflaged utility uniform and cap, and with regulation name tag over his right breast pocket. It hangs, along with 27 other official portraits, in the historic Commandant's House at Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, S.E., in Washington, D.C. The portrait, of the 29th Marine to become Commandant, is number 28 in the house because there is no known likeness of fourth Commandant LtCol Anthony Gayle.

The U.S. Naval Institute commissioned the second Egeli portrait of Gen Gray, in dress blue tunic with three rows of medals, Joint Chiefs of Staff badge, ribbons over the right breast pocket, and white cap with general officer's "scrambled eggs" on the bill. The painting hangs in the Marine Corps Historical Center along with other Naval Institute-sponsored portraits of Marine commandants completed since the Institute program began in 1971 with Albert Murray's portrait of Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. When not committed to the Naval Academy or other exhibit purpose, the portraits are on loan to the Marine Corps Museum.

PARRIS ISLAND boot camp in 1953 was Peter Egeli's formal introduction to the Marine Corps. Looking over his artist father Bjorn Egeli's shoulder as he painted six official portraits—of Commandants George F. Elliott, Ben H. Fuller, John H. Russell, Alexander A. Vandegrift, Clifton B. Cates, and Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.—was a subtler introduction.

Stationed at the 8th and I barracks, young PFC Peter Egeli worked as an illustrator and art instructor at the Marine Corps Institute and was able to view his father's portraits in the Commandant's House. He won medals as a member of the barracks rifle team, but says he was more comfortable and shot higher scores with his issued parade M-1 rifle rather than the



U.S. Naval Institute portrait of Gen Gray

star gauge competition piece preferred by most shooters. There were pits in the bore and Peter cardboard-shimmed stock and receiver loosened by parade-ground butt-banging. Somehow, for him, it worked. Another barracks duty was to guard President Eisenhower at Camp David.

Painting or other art traditions seem to run in some families and Peter counts about 11 artists in his, among them his wife Elizabeth Stuart Wilkinson, or "Stu," whose father was a Marine in the 1930s. Daughter Lisa, also an artist, ran and placed well in the 1991 Marine Corps Marathon. Son Stuart, a U.S. Naval Academy 1992 graduate, now serves as an ensign.

BJORN EGELI, FATHER OF Peter and portraitist of six commandants, was born in Horton, Norway, in 1900. He trained under his uncle, Herman Egeli, at age nine, and under sculptor Gustav Vigeland. He went to sea at age 15 on a square-rigged sailing ship and first touched U.S. shores in 1919. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard in the early 1920s and trained at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. Later, as a naval architect, he built museum-quality ship models and designed two full-sized ketches, one of which was sailed solo around the world and solo 13 times across the Atlantic by Frenchman and artist Jean Gau. Bjorn Egeli, the athlete—champion wrestler and rope climber—with a great capacity for work, painted more than 600 portraits.

Peter Egeli, born in 1934, attended the Corcoran School of Art and after Marine Corps service, graduated from the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore, studied at the Art Students League in New York City and George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and taught drawing and painting at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Since 1967 he pursued a dual career as portraitist and marine (seascapes and ships) painter. He painted the original official portrait of Commandant Gen Robert H. Barrow, as well as more than 60 commissions for major collections.

□1775□

New Division Leaders

by LtCol Dale K. Johnson, USMC
Executive Officer

Following its reorganization last spring (*Fortitudine*, Summer 1992), the History and Museums Division has seen individuals fill both newly created and vacated billets.

Col Marshall B. Darling has assumed the duties of Deputy Director of Marine Corps History and Museums. Col Darling joined the division from Okinawa, where he served as assistant chief of staff for operations and training, MCB Camp Butler, and chief of staff, 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

LtCol Thomas A. Richards joined the division as Head, Historical Branch in August 1992. He arrived from Okinawa where he served as 3d Marine Division G-3 training officer. His billet at the Center replaces that of the former Deputy Director for Marine Corps History.

Frederick J. Graboske is filling the billet of archivist at the Marine Corps Historical Center. He brings 17 years of archival experience with him from the National Archives.

LtCol Kenneth W. Estes, while also filling the billet of historical writer, currently is serving as general editor of the division's publications series *U.S. Marines in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991*. He arrived from Spain, where he was Head, International Affairs Branch, Office of Defense Cooperation, in Madrid.

Exhibits Created Honoring War's 50th Anniversary

by James A. Fairfax
Head, Exhibits Unit

AS THE NATION begins commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II, the Marine Corps Museum at the Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington, D.C., has created the first seven of a projected series of exhibits saluting the contributions of Marines in the war.

The exhibits feature the Corps' preparation for and participation in the war effort from "Opening Moves: Marines Gear Up for War," the first exhibit, to "Outpost in the North Atlantic: Marines in the Defense of Iceland, 1941-1942"; "Infamous Day: Marines at Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941"; "A Magnificent Fight: Marines in the Battle for Wake Island"; "Marines in the Defense of the Philippines"; "Marines in the Battle for Midway"; and "First Offensive: The Marine Campaign for Guadalcanal."

These seven exhibits have been designed and fabricated on-site from development of an original commemorative logo and design of cases to creation of text, selection of artifacts and experimentation with the techniques of mounting. The visitor to the Marine Corps Museum can expect to view such items as a sergeant of the guard's logbook with entries made at the beginning of the attack by Japanese aircraft on Pearl Harbor, the original proclamation from the Japanese commander following the capture of Wake Island, a message from Adm Chester W. Nimitz to Marine aviators following the Battle for Midway, the famous "George Medal" of Guadalcanal veterans, a Reising submachine gun, prisoner of war note-



Uniform items and gear used by Marines in Iceland early in World War II are featured in "Outpost in the North Atlantic."

books, newspapers of the era, captured Japanese rifles and bayonets, and many unusual photographs.

ADDITIONALLY, AN EXHIBIT OF sculpture by Cynthia Morehead has been installed in commemoration of the Bataan Death March.

This effort of exhibit development and installation in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Marines in World War II will be ongoing through 1995. □1775□

Eyewitness Accounts Wanted

by LtCol Kenneth W. Estes
Historical Writer

Marines and civilian employees who served in the Persian Gulf War, related actions in Somalia and Kurdistan, and their supporting activities in the U.S., are invited to contribute personal accounts, documents, and memorabilia to the Marine Corps Historical Center and the Marine Corps Museum.

Personal accounts of any length are sought for placement in Marine Corps archives to be available to staff and visiting researchers. Both paper and IBM-compatible PC disks are welcome. Manuscripts of appropriate length and content will be considered for publication in the History and Museum Division's Occasional Papers series.

Documents, diaries, journals, messages in original or copy format, maps, and photos also will be placed in the archives. Equipment items and other memorabilia may be accessioned by the Marine Corps Museum and either added to existing exhibits or placed in study collections available to researchers and curators.

Materials should be sent to Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, Marine Corps Historical Center, Building 58, Navy Yard, 901 M Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20374-5040.

Historical Quiz

World War II Medal of Honor Recipients

by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian

Answer the following questions:

1. How many Medals of Honor were awarded to Marines for action in World War II?
2. How many Marines died as a result of the action for which they were recognized by the Medal of Honor?
3. Which World War II battle resulted in the largest number of Medals of Honor bestowed?
4. How many Marine Corps aces in World War II were decorated by the Medal of Honor?
5. Name the three Marines who were awarded Medals of Honor during World War II and later became Commandants of the Marine Corps.
6. The oldest Marine ever to receive a Medal of Honor was presented his medal for action on Guadalcanal. Who is he?
7. The youngest Marine ever to receive a Medal of Honor was awarded his medal for action on Iwo Jima. Name this Marine.
8. Who received a greater number of Medals of Honor in World War II, officers or enlisted Marines?
9. By place of birth, which state(s) had the most Medal of Honor recipients?
10. How many World War II Medal of Honor recipients were not born in the United States?

(Answers on page 17)

Awards Go to Longtime Museum Chief Nihart, 6 Others

by Charles R. Smith
Historical Foundation

COL FRANKLIN BROOKE NIHART, USMC (Ret), was recognized for exceptional contributions to the Marine Corps historical program along with other recipients of honors at the annual awards dinner of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation on 25 October 1992.

Col Nihart, former Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums in the History and Museums Division of Headquarters Marine Corps, was presented the Foundation's highest honor, its Distinguished Service Award, for "his caring custody of the record, customs, and equipment of the Marine Corps."

Col Nihart joined the division in 1973, following three years as managing editor of the *Armed Forces Journal*. A veteran of World War II and of Korea, Nihart received the Navy Cross for action as commanding officer of the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, in 1951 in Korea.

His contributions to Marine Corps history go back nearly half a century, when he "liberated" the ship's bell and plaque from the USS *Henderson* upon decommissioning. The bell is used daily at Marine Barracks, Henderson Hall, in Arlington, Virginia.

WHILE COMMANDING OFFICER of the 7th Marines from 1961 to 1963, he organized a regimental history program which included the writing of a formal history. While on active duty he wrote frequently for the *Marine Corps Gazette* and other military and scholarly journals.

From 1968 to 1971 he served as a member of the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History and in 1973 he was recalled to active duty in the post of Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums. He continued in that position, first in uniform and then as a civilian employee, until his retirement in 1992. His tenure witnessed the relocation in 1977 of the Marine Corps Museum from Quantico to the then-new Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard. At Quantico the embryonic Marine Corps Aviation Museum was converted under his direction into the present, greatly enlarged Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum.

In addition to Col Nihart, the Founda-



Col Brooke Nihart, second from right, is congratulated by, from left, Under Secretary of the Navy J. Daniel Howard; BGen Edwin H. Simmons, Director of Marine Corps History and Museums; and LtGen Philip D. Shutler, Historical Foundation president.

tion recognized four individuals for their written scholarship pertinent to Marine Corps history and professional subjects during 1991.

THE SERGEANT MAJOR Dan Daly Award, given for superior writing pertinent to Marine Corps history by an enlisted author for a Marine Corps post or station periodical, was presented to SSgt William R. Parker, USMC (Ret), for his contributions while serving as feature writer for *Flight Jacket* in the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California.

The General Roy S. Geiger Aviation Award, for the best article published in the *Marine Corps Gazette* in the field of Marine Corps aviation, was presented to LtCol Cary R. Cheston, for his article "Will the MAGTF Survive?" from the June 1991 issue. LtCol Cheston, an A-6 and F/A-18 pilot, is currently Commanding Officer, Marine Air Group 41, Detachment A, in Memphis, Tennessee.

LTCOL OTTO J. LEHRACK III, USMC (Ret), was this year's recipient of the General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. Book Award for the outstanding nonfiction book pertinent to Marine Corps history. His *No Shining Armor: The Marines at War in Vietnam, An Oral History* (University Press of Kansas, 1991) reflected a five-

year effort to compile the personal accounts of men who served in 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, and record what they remember about Vietnam 20 years later.

The Colonel Robert D. Heintz, Jr., Award for the best article pertinent to Marine Corps history published in any journal was given to Maj Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR, for his article, "Edson's First Raiders," which appeared in the fall 1991 issue of *Naval History*, published by the Naval Institute.

THE FOUNDATION also recognized Col Peter M. Gish, USMCR (Ret), presenting him the Colonel John W. Thomason, Jr. Award for his work while assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, depicting events Operation Provide Comfort in northern Iraq. The award, named for the highly decorated combat officer and artist, is given for excellence in the fine or applied arts, including photography, in depicting the historical or contemporary Marine Corps.

In the field of museum exhibitry, the Foundation's Colonel John H. Magruder III Award was given to the Sheriff John F. DeWitt Military Museum in Elkton, Maryland. The museum, opened in April 1992, memorializes former Marine John F. DeWitt, who served as Cecil County sheriff for 16 years. The collection emphasizes Marine Corps history while honoring Cecil County veterans. □1775□

Diversity, Quality Among Magruder Award Contenders

by Col Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret)

THE MARINE CORPS Historical Foundation's annual Magruder Award competition for museum exhibits and living history events smoked out a couple of unit historical displays this past fall. We shall recognize them here.

The first word came from retired MSgt Francis Arciaga, Jr., of Huntington Beach, California. Actually, he was responding to my request in this space for units with historical displays to share them as a motivator for other units. "Top" Arciaga submitted a videotape and a binder with pictures and texts of his "MP and CID Historical Archives" display in both the lobby of Camp Pendleton's Provost Marshal Office and a mobile office trailer next to the PMO building. It was so impressive that we submitted it for consideration for the Magruder Award.

The displays include the various badges criminal investigators and military policemen have worn through the years and the credentials they carried. Photographs, news stories, award certificates and citations, equipment, and biographies complete the displays. MSgt Arciaga began his collection and recording of MP and CID history 25 years ago. He has provided the Law Enforcement Security Branch at

HQMC and the provost marshal offices of Camps Lejeune and Pendleton with sets of two binders each on MP and CID history. MSgt Arciaga showed his understanding of history's place in the Marine Corps when he ended his letter to me with this aphorism, "You have to know where you have been before you can know where you are going."

ANOTHER HISTORICAL display comes from MCAS, Kaneohe Bay. It was created by Sgt Kit H. Hart of the local Training Audio-Visual Support Center. The theme was the special kind of leadership that epitomizes the Marine Corps. Portraits and short captions of the exploits of five Marine heroes are used to develop that theme. The five—Lewis B. Puller, Dan Daly, Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, Leland "Lou" Diamond, and Evans F. Carlson—are displayed on the center's lobby wall.

Magruder Award entries brought forth another type of Marine Corps history presentation. These were private collections, usually of former Marines, displayed in conjunction with local, usually Reserve, Marine activities. Foremost of these was the collection of Charles Bish, repeatedly displayed by G Battery, 3d Battalion, 14th

Marines, in West Trenton, New Jersey.

Another such display was the collection of a third-generation Marine, Reserve Sgt J. M. Fawcett, of Seattle's 4th Landing Support Battalion. Inspired by his father, who served in 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, on Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian, Fawcett began collecting both Marine and Japanese enemy historical artifacts. From them he has created mobile displays concentrating on both sides in the Pacific War but also including material from World War I and the interwar years. His mobile displays have been shown at the Iwo Jima Veteran's Association, Second Marine Division Association, Marine Corps League and recruiter activities, Marine Corps birthday celebrations, and Reserve recruiting and retention efforts. In addition to Marine World War II material, the displays' strengths are their Japanese World War II segment and their recruiting posters from World War I to 1945.

STILL ANOTHER IS the collection of John Dwyer of Memphis, Tennessee. His collection includes uniforms, insignia, gear, and photographs from 1917 to the present. He has shown it in connection with his Marine Corps League detachment, NAS Millington activities, Marine Corps birthday observances, and visitations of Marine Corps dignitaries.

An unusual entry was that of former Marine M. Joseph Arrigo who has an in-depth collection of Marine uniforms developed at considerable time, travel, and cost over the years. These uniforms, original and reproductions for the earlier periods, he used to uniform his friends in his Northwest Suburban Detachment, Marine Corps League at NAS Glenview, Illinois. They appear in most parades, Marine birthday observances, and other events of the League and Glenview's Marine Air Control Group-48. These appearances not only include a one-each uniform display from 1775 to the present but also all the aviation uniforms from 1918 on for MACG-48, the Marine fire team, an Iwo Jima flag raising reenactment, and other thematic combinations. □1775□

Original and reproduction historic Marine Corps uniforms collected by M. Joseph Arrigo are worn by friends in public events in the Glenview, Illinois, area and the nearby naval air station. They include one of each uniform worn by Marines since 1775.



3d MarDiv Marks 50th Birthday with 3-Day Celebration

by Danny J. Crawford
Head, Reference Section

THE 3D MARINE DIVISION celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1992 at various sites on Okinawa.

The highlight of the three-day commemoration was the 50th Anniversary Parade Ceremony at Camp Courtney on 16 September—the division's birthday. After the reading of anniversary messages sent by LtGen Henry C. Stackpole III, CG, FMFPac, and MajGen Donald R. Gardner, CG, III MEF, awards were presented to three Marines of the division. The official lineage of the 3d Marine Division was then read. The lineage traces the accomplishments of the division from the hard-fought battles on Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima in World War II, through the pitched battles in places like Da Nang, Con Thien, and Khe Sanh in Vietnam, to the most recent additions on the lineage reflecting the service of 3d Division units in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and later in Operations Sea Angel and Fiery Vigil.

Perhaps the most moving part of the ceremony was the rededication of the division colors and the presentation of the

division's battle streamers. One by one, each streamer was ceremoniously carried forward and rededicated by a young Marine whose father or grandfather had served in the war or conflict represented by the streamer. This was followed by the playing of the Marines' Hymn and the official cutting of the 50th anniversary cake.

MAJGEN MICHAEL J. BYRON, division commanding general, then addressed the gathering, speaking first of the division's accomplishments, and then of the three words inscribed on the division shield: Fidelity, honor, and valor. Of the future role of the division MajGen Byron said, "As our forces around the world shrink, it will fall to the Marines and sailors of the 3d Marine Division to be even more prepared to meet a wider range of challenges than before. As this Division has proved so many times over the last 50 years, we will be ready."

At the close of the ceremony, Marines and guests were invited to view the photographic history of the division on dis-

play next to the reviewing stand. This was one of many display panels prepared and set up at selected sites at the various camps on Okinawa, commemorating the division's heritage. An illustrated souvenir booklet, detailing the division's history and accomplishments from 1942 to present, was also printed and distributed to division Marines and sailors.

On 18 September, a combat skills competition was held at Camp Hansen in further celebration of the birthday. Twelve six-man teams represented battalions throughout the division competing in four combat skills events, including an endurance course, a weapons assembly relay, a rifle and pistol match, and a combat swim competition.

THE FIRST-PLACE trophy was won by 3d Reconnaissance Battalion in a very close competition. According to 3d MarDiv SgtMaj Thomas J. Cruz, a definite sense of unity among the Marines was evident even in the most hotly-contested events. "It was a very appropriate way to celebrate the birthday," noted SgtMaj Cruz. "When the division started 50 years ago we were doing the same thing. We've just carried on what we did then." □1775□

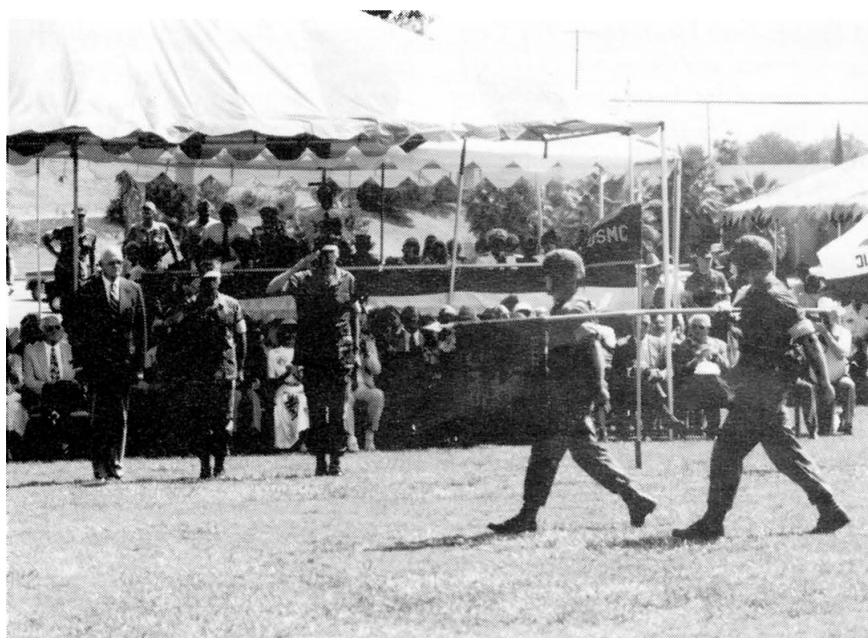
Answers to Historical Quiz

World War II Medal of Honor Recipients

(Questions on page 14)

1. 81
2. 46
3. Iwo Jima (22)
4. Nine: They are: LtCol Harold Bauer; 1stLt Gregory Boyington; 1stLt Jefferson J. DeBlanc; Capt Joseph J. Foss; Maj Robert E. Galer; 1stLt Robert M. Hanson; Maj Lucian Smith; 1stLt James E. Swett; and 1stLt Kenneth A. Walsh.
5. They are: Col David M. Shoup (Tawara); MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift (Guadalcanal); and Capt Louis F. Wilson, Jr., (Guam).
6. MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift (age 55)
7. PFC Jacklyn Lucas (age 17)
8. Enlisted Marines (51) and Officers (30).
9. Ohio and Illinois (7 each)
10. One. 1stLt Robert M. Hanson (Born: Lucknow, India).

Celebrating its own half-century mark in September 1992 was Camp Pendleton, California, assisted by 26th Commandant Gen Louis H. Wilson, left, who reviewed the anniversary parade along with I Marine Expeditionary Force commander LtGen Robert B. Johnston, center, and base commander BGen B. D. Lynch.



Titles Explore 'Special Ops,' the Corps' Sergeants Major

by Evelyn A. Englander
Historical Center Librarian

THE LIBRARY of the Marine Corps Historical Center reviews many recently published books of professional interest to Marines. Most of them are available from local bookstores or libraries.

Newly available are revised editions of Millett's *Semper Fidelis* and Moskin's *U.S. Marine Corps Story*. Both have been updated to include Marine Corps participation in the Persian Gulf War. (*Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps*. Allan R. Millett, The Free Press. 1991. 895 pp. \$19.95 paperback. \$35.00 hardbound. *U.S. Marine Corps Story*, third revised ed. J. Robert Moskin, Little, Brown, and Co. 1992. 915 pp. \$19.95 paperback. \$40.00 hardbound.)

Heinl's *Soldiers of the Sea* has been reprinted by Nautical and Aviation Publishing Co. in its "Great War Stories" series, with a foreword by former Commandant Gen Alfred M. Gray. (*Soldiers of the Sea: The United States Marine Corps, 1775-1962*. Col Robert Debs Heinl, Jr., USMC. Nautical and Aviation Publishing Co. of America. 1991. 692 pp. \$26.95.)

BGen Edwin H. Simmons' *The United States Marines: The First Two Hundred Years, 1775-1975* has been reprinted by the Marine Corps Association and is available for \$4.95.

Shadow War: Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. LtCol H. T. Hayden, USMC, comp., Pacific Aero Press. 1992. 288 pp. An excellent compilation of 25 articles on LIC and Special Ops, giving both current applications and historical perspectives.

LtCol Hayden, in his preface, clearly explains the difference between LIC and Special Ops: special ops being a form of military operations used across the entire spectrum of conflict; LIC an environment at the lower end of the conflict spectrum with strategic nuclear warfare at the higher end. Includes a useful glossary and bibliography. In addition to local sources, this is available both through the Marine

Corps Association Bookservice and at the Marine Corps Museum Bookstore for \$24.95.

In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain and the American Civil War. Alice Rains Trulock, University of North Carolina Press. 1992. 569 pp. This book traces the remarkable Civil War career of the young professor from Bowdoin College who later went on to become president of Bowdoin and then governor of Maine. The author follows him from Antietam, through Fredericksburg, to Gettysburg and his heroic stand at Little Round Top, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Then the narrative moves on through Petersburg to Appomatox, where Grant chose him to receive the formal surrender of Lee's troops. Throughout the war he was admired for his heroism and his strength of character. In writing this, the author used many new primary sources: letters, diaries, and photographs. \$34.95.

The Age of Battles: The Quest for Decisive Warfare from Breitenfeld to Waterloo. Russell F. Weigley, Indiana University Press. 1991. 579 pp. Dr. Weigley, professor of history at Temple University, is also the author of *The American Way of War* and *Eisenhower's Lieutenants: The Campaign of France and Germany, 1944-1945*, among other titles. In this book, covering warfare from 1631-1815, he sees a period dominated by the search for decisive battlefield victory as opposed to medieval raiding and sieges and the later trench warfare of the Civil War and World War I. He questions if the all-out warfare of this period was an effective extension of national policy and concludes that only for Great Britain was this so. \$35.00.

Calculations, Net Assessment and the Coming of World War II. Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, eds., Free Press. 1992. 354 pp. Experts on each of the seven belligerent nations: Great Britain, Germany, Italy, France, Soviet Union, United States, and Japan, examine how these nations assessed their own and their enemies'

military capabilities. This included not just military hardware and manpower but also the whole spectrum of economic, military, and political power. \$35.00.

First Call: The Making of the Modern U.S. Military, 1945-1953. Thomas D. Boettcher, Little, Brown, and Co. 1992. 464 pp. Tom Boettcher, an Air Force Academy graduate and Vietnam veteran, is the author also of *Vietnam, the Valor and the Sorrow*. *First Call* traces changes in the organization of the U.S. military in the period following WWII through the Korean War, changes which would last for at least the next 40 years. He concentrates on the personalities and struggles of the period, both military and political. \$27.50.

Lions, Leathernecks, and Legacies. Bud De Vere. De Vere Press, 1992. 195 pp. By the former exhibits specialist for the Marine Corps Museum. He recounts his life with the circus, with the Marine Corps, and with his family. His many friends will enjoy reading this autobiography. "Bud" is a great story teller, detailing his memories of family, friends, and events in his life. With illustrations by the author. \$10.95 (DeVere Press, P.O. Box 1300, Newington, Virginia 22122.).

Uncommon Men: the Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps. John C. Chapin. White Mane Publishing Co, 1992. 400 pp. *Uncommon Men* gives the biographies of the first eleven Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps. In writing this book, the author used interviews, personal comments, official documents, correspondence, and family photographs. His stories include accounts of their participation in battles from World War II campaigns through the recent Persian Gulf war. Capt Chapin is the author of histories of the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions and of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and of the forthcoming history of the Marshall Islands campaign in History and Museum Division's World War II commemorative series. \$35.00 (White Mane Publishing Co., Inc., P.O. Box 152, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania 17257). □1775□

Quantico's 'Traveling Exhibits' Aid Anniversary Effort

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Curator of Material History

EARLY IN 1992, in preparation for marking the 50th anniversary of World War II, a committee was formed at Headquarters, Marine Corps, to coordinate official celebrations. As expected, the committee asked the Museums Branch to provide travelling exhibits for use by field commands and by veterans' and civic organizations.

For some years, the Marine Corps Museum has loaned a series of "modular" exhibits in the Washington, D.C.-Quantico area. Each fully encased exhibit was constructed by the Museum staff at the Historical Center in Washington. Many of these well-used portable displays are meant to be shown in sets and cannot stand alone. Others need major rehabilitation.

IN APRIL, the decision was made to manufacture a whole new collection of travelling exhibits, complete with shipping crates, at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum's Exhibit Unit, under the direction of Ronald J. Perkins. This project became one of the Quantico museum's major tasks for the next six months, and the top priority undertaking for the exhibits unit.

The project was to be accomplished following a plan under refinement during the previous two years. The curatorial staff

The USS New Orleans was host for the Marines' traveling World War II 50th Anniversary display during Fleet Week celebrations in San Francisco harbor, 11-14 October 1992. The "modulars" were similarly used on the Mall in Washington, D.C. in May 1992.

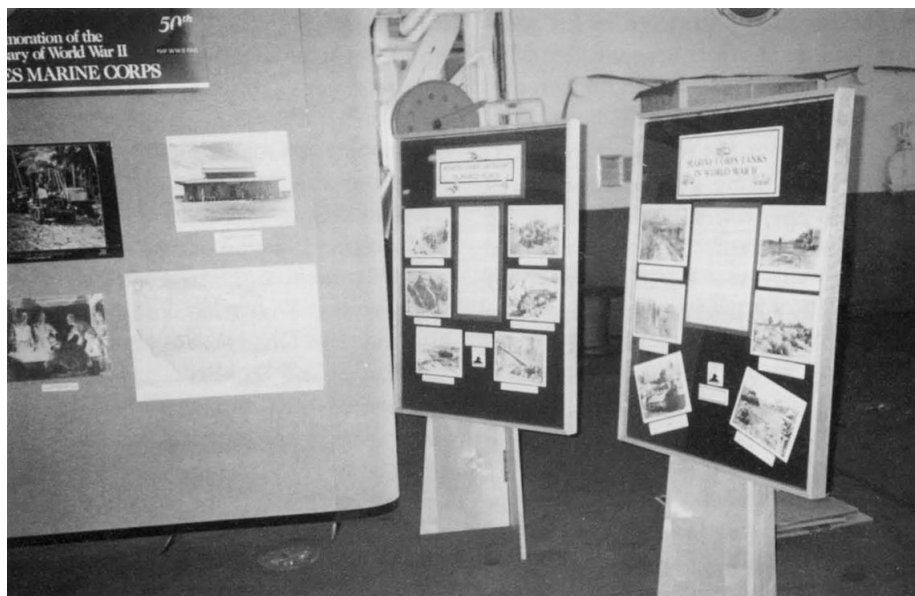


Photo by Sgt Eric Hollins, USMC

At right, two of the Quantico-built displays feature "Marine Corps Artillery in World War II" and "Marine Corps Tanks in World War II," on view in 1992 during Fleet Week in San Francisco. Large panel, left, has photos of artwork by the late Donald L. Dickson.

wanted to involve student officers in producing traveling exhibits on the six Marine divisions of World War II. These would be in "kit" form, with all items mounted on hard exhibit board backed with hook-and-loop tabs, light enough to be mailed out and subsequently displayed on fabric-covered panels.

Several years before, the curators had assisted the 2d Airdrome Battalion Reunion

Association in constructing just such a kit and it was deemed to have been a success. If the "divisional" exhibits were going to be as successful, what was needed was an energetic and motivated young Marine to fire up the project.

The task was assigned to a recent graduate of the Officer Candidate School, 2dLt Charles B. Hotchkiss, who was on temporary duty with the museum while waiting for his Basic School class to start. Lt Hotchkiss' assignment was to research and write a succinct main label for each of the six division displays, and then to select and caption a group of representative photographs from all of the major campaigns in which each division participated, as well as the famous personalities associated with each. From these prototypes, the Exhibits Unit would construct five duplicate exhibits on each division.

BY THE TIME Lt Hotchkiss departed for the Basic School, he had completed four of the difficult-to-craft main labels, and had selected and captioned the photographs for all six divisions.

The remaining two main labels were completed by 2dLt Raymond B. Baker and Benjamin Noga, a summer intern from

Pennsylvania State University. Eventually, these storytelling labels, and captioned photographs, were mounted in newly designed modular cases, accompanied by a campaign map. The cases, designed by Mr. Perkins and constructed by his assistants, Ronnie D. Alexander and Benny E. Lenox, are not as deep as those formerly used by the Marine Corps Museum, since the intention was not to include artifacts.

In order to bring a three-dimensional quality to the new series, the museum decided additionally to construct several duplicate displays featuring the M1 Garand rifle. An intermediate-depth case was designed by Mr. Perkins. A deactivated rifle, an M1923 cartridge belt, and a clip of eight dummy cartridges was installed in each case, along with a main label and an enlarged photograph of a Marine firing his rifle during the campaign on Saipan. The main label is an edited version of the "sidebar" on the rifle which was written by firearms expert and author Scott Duff, for an upcoming History and Museums Division commemorative publication on the Bougainville campaign.

Several of the second lieutenants on temporary duty at the museum assisted volunteers in preparing for the exhibits

five of the 100-plus deactivated M1s we have in the collection (See *Fortitudine*, Summer 1992).

By late Spring, the museum was already building up a respectable number of exhibits on a variety of subjects and campaigns when, concurrently, the commemorative committee had a new requirement for the commemoration ceremonies on Guadalcanal. It needed an exhibit on the uniforms worn and the rifle used during that campaign. Employing an edited version of the "sidebar" for the 1941 utility uniform already submitted for the Division's commemorative pamphlet on Guadalcanal and an edited version of the sidebar on the M1903 Springfield rifle from another of the pamphlets, the museum was able to produce two on each subject: one set went to the Guadalcanal ceremonies with the Assistant Commandant and one was loaned to the USS *Guadalcanal* for its commemoration ceremonies in Norfolk on 7 August. Like the exhibit on the M1 rifle, these have the actual artifacts in the cases, and the one on the '03 rifle sports a hand-colored cutaway schematic drawing of the weapon's firing action.

Since early summer, these modular exhibits have been shipped nationwide in a

loan program administered by both the Committee and the museum staff. They have travelled to the U.S. Naval Academy and Fort Meade, Maryland; throughout the Midwest; as far west as the Treasure Island Museum in San Francisco; and, of course, to Marine Corps commands at Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton. They have been shown singly and in a number of different groupings.

It is possible to mount an exhibit on a particular Marine division and all of the campaigns in which it fought. Likewise, a specific campaign can be highlighted, with supporting exhibits on the divisions which took part. Further, a campaign can be examined through the various combat arms which fought the battle. The only limitations are the requestor's knowledge of World War II history and the current availability of the exhibits.

AT PRESENT, the museum has more than 50 modular exhibits on World War II available for loan. New additions steadily are being made to the inventory. Marine Corps commands can reserve exhibit cases by contacting Capt John G. Worman, Public Affairs Division, Headquarters, Marine Corps, at (703) 697-7371.

□1775□

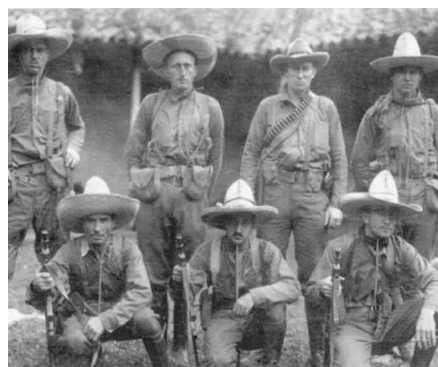
High-Tech Quantico Firing Range Named for Col William 'Ironman' Lee

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

IN A WELL ATTENDED ceremony on 3 November 1992 which included many family members and friends, 92-year-old Col William A. "Ironman" Lee, USMC (Ret), took a turn at a new high-tech firing range at MCB Quantico, and delighted his audience by consecutively hitting a pop-up target (Remotely Engaged Target System P-305) nine times, as the range was named in his honor.

Regular readers of *Fortitudine* will recall that the Marine Corps Commemorative Naming Program honors the memory of heroic, deceased Marines by the naming of facilities in their honor. Although the Marine Corps rarely has made exceptions to this well-established policy, it was thought that the very much alive Col Lee was an unusually fitting candidate for the naming of the firing range.

Born on 12 November 1900 in Ward Hill, Massachusetts, Col Lee began his



Then-GySgt Lee is second from right in the back row in this photo of grim-looking Marine "vigilantes" in Nicaragua in 1928.

colorful, 31-year Marine Corps career in 1918, and achieved fame during the 1930s fighting Nicaraguan bandits alongside the legendary Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller.

A recipient of three Navy Crosses for gallantry in Nicaragua, "Ironman" Lee was once knocked unconscious by bandit gunfire, only to awaken 15 minutes later to

rejoin his Marine and Guardia comrades in repulsing the outlaw attack.

ALWAYS A RENOWNED SHOT, Col Lee participated in many rifle and pistol competitions throughout his military career, and was a member of the Marine Corps team coached by the revered Marine Gunner Calvin A. Lloyd. Col Lee surpassed 5,800 other marksmen to win the Wimbledon Cup, and he twice won the Ellicott Cup.

During World War II, Lee was captured the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, when Imperial Japanese forces overran North China. He was a prisoner of war for 44 months, surviving numerous hardships.

After the war, Col Lee was stationed at Quantico as weapons training officer. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1950, and now lives with his wife Ann in Fredericksburg, Virginia. □1775□

C-130 Hercules

by Michael E. Starn
Curator of Aviation

WITH THE AIR SUPPORT role of the Marine Corps under constant reevaluation, the aircraft themselves must also be scrutinized regularly to ensure they are new-mission capable. This was true also in the late 1950s when the transport of troops and equipment carried by R4D Skytrains since 1942, was moving into the next generation of Marine Corps air support represented by the C-130 Hercules.

In February 1951, the U.S. Air Force solicited designs for a new troop transport. The Boeing Aircraft Company, Fairchild Aircraft Limited of Canada, the Douglas Aircraft Corporation, and Lockheed Aircraft Corporation submitted designs. Five months later, Lockheed was selected to produce the new aircraft. At that time it was designated GV1, and changed to C-130 in 1962. The prototypes flew on 23 August

1954 and production deliveries began in 1955.

RECOGNIZING THE versatility of the aircraft, the Marine Corps, independent of the Navy, requested the loan of two C-130As from the Air Force in 1957. These two aircraft were modified for in-flight refueling, and were tested by the Marine Corps.

The evaluation led to a subsequent order of 46 tankers, on 22 January 1960. These tankers would be outfitted with probe and drogue pods under each wing tip, and would have a single fuel tank with a capacity of 3,600 gallons.

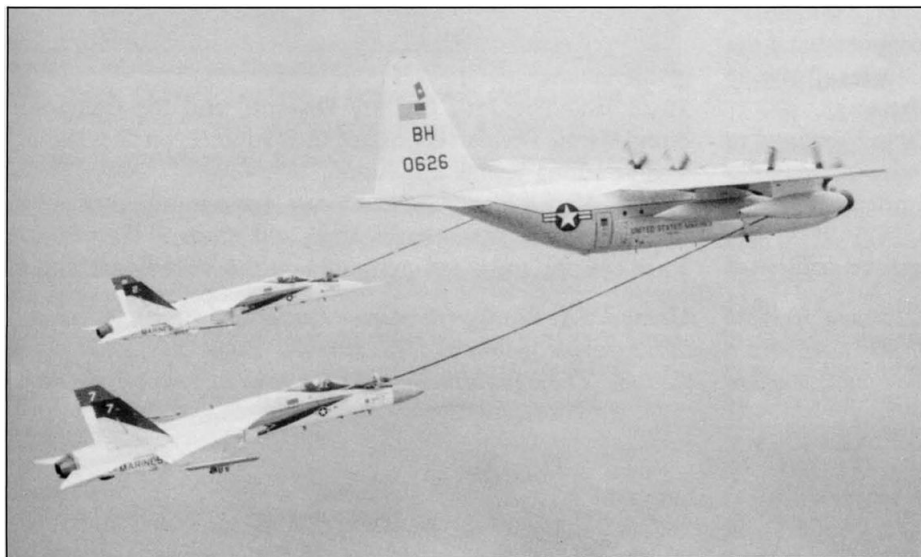
In 1963, a KC-130F made several unassisted takeoffs and landings from the USS *Forrestal*. This success was noted not only by the Marine Corps, but also by Navy and Coast Guard observers, and this later led to more applications for this already versatile aircraft.

The C-130 has established its versatility in such changing roles as photo reconnaissance, in-flight refueling, air-sea rescue, remotely piloted vehicle launch and recovery, and troop transport. The Marine Corps found that with removable fuel cells, the aircraft could double its duty as troop and equipment transport in addition to its primary mission of air-to-air refueling. It has now been used by no less than 32 nations around the world.

JUST AS THE R4D had served the Marine Corps from World War II through Korea, the C-130 has served just as faithfully as its replacement. To date it has proved flexible enough to be modified and continue to fill the Marine Corps' ever-changing missions.

The museum's latest acquisition is an EC-130Q, Bureau Number 161223, used for communication relay. Currently it is being stored at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, and it will be installed in the planned Alfred. A. Cunningham Command Museum, which is expected to be built at Cherry Point.

□1775□



A Marine KC-130R Hercules from VMGR-252, MCAS Cherry Point, refuels two U.S. Navy F/A-18s belonging to the Blue Angels performance unit, prior to showtime.

Technical Data

Manufacturer: Lockheed-Georgia Company, Marietta, Georgia.

Type: Flight refueling tanker and transport.

Accommodation: Crew of seven (tanker) or five (transport). Up to 92 troops or 74 stretchers.

Power Plant: Four 4,910 shaft horse power Allison T56-A-16 turboprops.

Dimensions: Length 97 ft., 8 in.; Wing Span 132 ft., 7 in.; Wing Area 1,745 square feet.

Weights: Operating weight empty, tanker, 74,454 lbs.; operating weight empty, transport, 70,491 lbs.; max take-off weight, 135,000 lbs.; max payload, 35,000 lbs.

Performance: Max speed 357 mph; long-range cruising speed, 343 mph at 25,000 feet; refueling speed, 250 mph at 120,000 lbs. weight at 20,000 feet; range on standard fuel capacity, up to 3,000 miles with full payload.

Armament: None.

January-June 1943

*by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section*

Fortitudine's World War II Chronology continues with the final defeat of Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, and Allied planning for subsequent operations in the Pacific Theater.

2 Jan—MajGen Millard F. Harmon, USA, Commanding General, South Pacific Area, designated the Guadalcanal-Tulagi command as XIV Corps, with MajGen Alexander M. Patch, USA, as Corps commander.

4 Jan—The Army's 161st Infantry; the 6th Marines; and the 2d Marine Division headquarters arrived on Guadalcanal.

6 Jan—On Guadalcanal, BGen Alphonse DeCarre, Assistant Division Commander, 2d Marine Division, and commander of the division's advance echelon, assumed responsibility for all Marine forces on the island with the exception of Marine air.

10 Jan—The Army's 25th Infantry Division (Rein), assigned to the capture of Hill 66 between the northwest and southwest forks of the Matanikau River, launched the final offensive on the island.

12 Jan—On Guadalcanal, the 6th Marines and the artillery of

Four Marine heroes from the campaign on Guadalcanal received the Medal of Honor and posed together on 21 May 1943. From left, they are the commander of Marines on the island, MajGen

the 2d Marine Division became part of the Composite Army-Marines Division, a provisional unit which also included the Army 82d and 147th Infantries and artillery of the Army's Americal Division.

12 Jan—The 1st Marine Division arrived from Guadalcanal at Melbourne, Australia, for rehabilitation.

13-15 Jan—On Guadalcanal, the 2d Marine Division launched its westward attack.

14-24 Jan—At the Casablanca Conference, the Allied strategy of war for 1943 was determined. An advance towards the Philippines through the Central and Southwest Pacific was agreed upon, as was the decision to demand "unconditional surrender" of the enemy.

20-23 Jan—The 25th Infantry Division, and the Composite Army-Marine Division continued their advances on Guadalcanal against strong enemy opposition.

21 Jan—Marine Fleet Air, West Coast, was commissioned at San Diego to administer, operate, train, and equip all Fleet Marine Force aviation units and personnel on the West Coast, and to

Alexander A. Vandegrift; Marine Raider Col Merritt A. Edson; and machine gunners 2dLt Mitchell Paige and PlSgt John Basilone. Lt Paige formerly held the rank of platoon sergeant.





Mrs. Ruth Cheney Streeter, a homemaker who learned to fly coastal spotter planes, was commissioned a major in the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and became its first Director.

supply personnel and material to Marine Aircraft Wings, Pacific.

29 Jan—Mrs. Ruth Cheney Streeter was commissioned a major, United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and became its first Director.

1 Feb—In the face of approaching Army and Marine Corps forces, Japanese troops began evacuating Guadalcanal. By 8 February, some 13,000 Japanese had left the island.

9 Feb—MajGen Alexander M. Patch, USA, Commander of XIV

Marine artillery, part of the Composite Army-Marines Division, supports the drive against evacuating enemy troops on Guadalcanal early in February 1943. By 8 February, some 13,000 Japanese

Corps, announced the "total and complete defeat of Japanese forces on Guadalcanal."

12 Feb—The first F4U Vought Corsairs, 12 aircraft belonging to Marine Fighter Squadron 124, arrived on Guadalcanal, and saw their first combat two days later.

1 Mar—Marine Bomber Squadron 413, the first Marine medium bomber squadron, was commissioned at Cherry Point, North Carolina.

1-4 Mar—In the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, a Japanese convoy enroute to the Huon Gulf, New Guinea, was decisively defeated by Australian and American aircraft squadrons based on New Guinea. This was the last Japanese attempt to use large vessels to reinforce positions in the Huon Gulf.

20 Mar—Maj John W. Sapp, USMC, led Marine Torpedo-Bomber Squadron 143 aircraft in an aerial mine-laying mission to Kahili, the first such mission of its kind in the South Pacific.

1 Apr—Marine Aircraft Group 53, commanded by LtCol Frank H. Schwable, was commissioned at Cherry Point, North Carolina, as the first Marine night fighter group.

21 Apr—Marine Aircraft, South Pacific, was established on a tentative basis to coordinate the administrative and logistical workload of the 1st and 2d Marine Aircraft Wings.

11 May—U.S. Army forces landed on Attu in the Aleutians. All Japanese resistance ceased by 3 June.

12-25 May—At the Trident Conference, held in Washington, D.C., the U.S. and Great Britain approved the U.S. "Strategic Plan for the Defeat of Japan," calling for a drive on Japan through the Central Pacific.

17 Jun—On Guadalcanal, the 9th Defense Battalion was relieved of its defensive role on the island, and began training for the New Georgia operation.

30 Jun—The active duty strength of the Marine Corps was 308,523—21,384 officers and 287,139 enlisted men. □1775□

had left the island and on the next day, MajGen Alexander M. Patch, USA, the XIV Corps commander, announced the "total and complete defeat of Japanese forces on Guadalcanal."



OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Anthology Introduces New Series on Persian Gulf War

by Capt David A. Dawson, USMC
Historical Writer

THE FIRST VOLUME of the History and Museums Division's Persian Gulf series, *U.S. Marines in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991: An Anthology and Annotated Bibliography*, edited by Maj Charles D. Melson, USMC (Ret), Miss Evelyn A. Englander, and Capt David A. Dawson, USMC, has been recently published.

This work follows the format of the division's earlier companion volume to the Vietnam War official histories, *The Marines in Vietnam, 1954-1973: An Anthology and Annotated Bibliography*. It provides Marines and other interested parties with both a useful introduction to Marine operations in the Persian Gulf region and a convenient reference to facilitate further study.

The assembled articles are not intended to be a complete history of Marine operations during the war. Instead, they have been selected to illustrate the perspective of Marines at every level of command. The articles have been divided into four main areas: Desert Shield, Desert Storm, After

Desert Storm, and Aspects of the War.

WITHIN THE FIRST two sections, the first article gives a broad overview, followed by articles leading the reader down the chain of command from the headquarters of I Marine Expeditionary

Force to the platoon and squad. The third section includes one article describing Marine Corps participation in the humanitarian relief effort in northern Iraq after the liberation of Kuwait. The fourth section contains a letter from a Marine captain to a class of schoolchildren, in which he explains eloquently why he served in the Gulf, and an examination of the relationship between the Marine Corps and the news media.

The articles are followed by three appendices, providing a convenient reference source. The first appendix gives the task organization of I MEF and other Marine units in the Gulf for Desert Storm. The second appendix gives a chronology of events affecting the Marine Corps for the period. The last appendix provides an annotated bibliography of articles relating to Marine Corps Persian Gulf operations published in the *Marine Corps Gazette*, *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*, and *Naval War College Review*, from October 1990 to December 1991. □1775□

